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# LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## COMMISSION ON HIV HEALTH SERVICES

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*While not required of meeting participants, signing-in constitutes public notice of attendance. Presence at meetings is recorded solely based on sign-in sheets, and not signing-in constitutes absence for Commission members.*

*Only members of the Commission on HIV Health Services are accorded voting privileges, thus Commissioners who have not signed in cannot vote.*

### COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES December 11, 2003

**Approved**  
**1/08/04**

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT
Al Ballesteros, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Nettie DeAugustine, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Cinderella Barrios-Cernik	Steve Erickson
Ruben Acosta	Carla Bailey	Janet Blum	Jane Nachazel
Adrian Aguilar	Nancy Eugenio	Diane Burbie	Ijeoma Nwachuku
Carrie Broadus	Alexander Gonzales	Tony DeAngelo	Gabriel Rodriguez
Robert Butler	Charles Henry	Alex Garcia	Rene Seidel
John Caranto	Howard Jacobs	Darlene Geyer	Jim Stewart
Charles Carter	Wilbert Jordan	Miki Jackson	Craig Vincent-Jones
Ruth Davis	Anna Long	Elliot Johnson	Nicole Werner
Richard Eastman	Edric Mendia	Thomas Kudla	
Whitney Engeran	John Palomo	Jules Levin	
Gunther Freehill	Dana Pierce-Hedge	Maxine Liggins	
William Fuentes	Alexis Rivera	Virginia Page	
David Giugni	Paul Scott	David Peribone	
Michael Gray	Fontaine Shockley	Jane Price	
John Griggs	Fariba Younai	Neisha Reynolds	
Richard Hamilton		Terri Reynolds	
Marc Haupt		Gary Vrooman	
Marcy Kaplan		O'Dell Walker	
Rebecca Johnson-Heath		Timothy Walton	
Brad Land		Charlene Williamson	
Michael Lewis		Jan Wise	
Andrew Ma		Alfonso Williams	
Elizabeth Marte		Amy Wohl	
Dani Mejia		Patricia Woody	
Vicky Ortega			
Dean Page			
Mark Parra			
Chris Perry			
Rebecca Johnson-Heath			
Wendy Schwartz			
Vanessa Talamantes			
Kevin Van Vreede			
Kathy Watt			

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Ballesteros called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.
- II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The Commission agreed to move up the State Office of AIDS Report on the agenda for when Ms. Pierce-Hedge calls in from Sacramento. The agenda was then approved without objection (**MOTION #1**).
- III. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes of the October 9, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved with the following alterations (**MOTION #2**):
  - Under the attendance page, add Dean Page to the members present column.
  - Ms. Broadus announced a Second District Coalition ~~Third Annual~~ *Seventh Anniversary* celebration in which Supervisor Yvonne Burke would participate.

IV. **PARLIAMENTARY TRAINING:** There was none.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** The following public comments were made later in the meeting following the recess:

- **Alfonso Williams, Minority AIDS Project**, expressed concern about his food vouchers being cut in January 2004.
- **Timothy Walton, AADAP**, spoke in favor of continuing the food voucher program.
- **O'Dell Walker, Minority AIDS Project**, spoke on the need for food vouchers in Service Provider Area (SPA) 6.
- **Kyron Kapnos, Minority AIDS Project**, spoke on the importance of clients having food to take with their medicine.

VI. **CO-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Mr. Ballesteros announced (after the recess) that the Executive Committee would address concerns about mid-year allocations for certain County HIV programs at its February meeting.

- A. **National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project:** Mr. Levin, the Executive Director of the National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project (NATAP), made a presentation about NATAP. He gave an overview of background on the project, treatment programs, educational events, advocacy and government efforts, and other NATAP activities related to the project. He then explained how HIV accelerates the progress of Hepatitis C, and described other impacts of this co-infection, noting that New York City is the center of the co-infection. He also expressed interest in the NATAP and the Commission collaborating in the future.
- B. **Annual Meeting Follow-Up:** In her presentation on follow-up to the Annual Meeting, Ms. Burbie reviewed highlights of her summary report. She reviewed participants' feedback on the Evaluation Training, the Partnership with the Administrative Agency presentation, the workshop on committee work and on the overall Annual Meeting. She then presented recommendations related to the work of the Executive Committee, new Commissioner Orientation, committee work and outcome measures. She went on to review indicators of success and data to measure the indicators related to Commission and Committee work. Finally, she thanked everyone who participated in the event. Mr. Ballesteros and other Commissioners then thanked and commended Ms. Burbie for facilitating the Annual Meeting. (After the recess) Mr. Acosta requested that attendance of participants be added to the summary report on the Annual Meeting. The Commission then formally adopted the Annual Meeting report (**MOTION #2A**).
- C. **At-Large Elections:** The Commission opened nominations for three Executive Committee At-Large seats with one-year terms each. Mr. Scott and Ms. Talamantes are up for re-election for two of the seats, and the third seat was vacated by Mr. Jacobs, who left the Commission. Nominations will remain open until the next Commission meeting. Mr. Acosta, Ms. Broadus, Ms. Johnson-Heath, Ms. Ortega, and Mr. Parra accepted nominations, and Mr. Eastman, Ms. Schwartz and Ms. Watt declined nominations. After discussion on whether serving on the Commission for one year should be a requirement for a seat on the Executive Committee, it was agreed that any Commissioners in good standing could run for the election. Mr. Stewart noted a nomination does not require a second if accepted by the Commissioner nominated, and that current At-Large members can be re-nominated. Commissioners also spoke that Executive Committee members need to attend their meetings regularly. Mr. Vincent-Jones indicated that nominees would need to send a short paragraph about why they want to be elected to the At-Large seats to him so he could include them in the next Commission packet.
- D. **Executive Director Search Status:** Mr. Ballesteros reported that interviews for the Executive Director position would be held December 15 and 18, 2003. Commissioners then discussed what the Commission's input would be in the selection process for the position.

VII. **RECESS:** The Commission recessed at 10:48 a.m.

VIII. **HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM:**

- A. **Risk of Opportunistic Infections (OIs) in Latinos Living with HIV:** Dr. Wohl reported on a study on the risks of OIs among Latinos living with HIV in Los Angeles County. The study analyzed and compared rates of OIs for U.S.-born, Mexican-born and Central American-born Latinos and Latinas. She explained the methods, demographics and other factors in conducting the study. She went on to emphasize that results and trends in the data indicate U.S. born-Latinos have higher OI rates than Central-American-born Latinos. Finally, she highlighted some factors and lifestyle patterns associated with these trends for each population. Responding to Ms. Broadus' inquiry, she indicated the clinic-based study had been conducted in the following HIV treatment centers: Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, County/USC Medical Center, the Kaiser Permanente HIV Clinic at Sunset Boulevard, and the Victor Beer Medical Clinic. Ms. Broadus suggested connecting with the Hubert Humphrey Comprehensive Care Center Intervention Project in SPA 6, which has high concentration of Latinos.

IX. **OAPP REPORT:** Mr. Freehill reported on the following:

- Mr. Henry was participating in a CDC-sponsored technical assistance program in Guam.
- OAPP's World AIDS Day activities on December 1, 2003 received 175 broadcast hits.
- The Institute of Medicine posted a report online on the distribution of funds for the Ryan White CARE Act.
- Federal budget cuts for HIV services are projected with a few exceptions, but funding for ADAP would probably be increased slightly.
- The outlook for the state budget is even worse with the Governor's proposed cuts, including a proposal to cap ADAP enrollment in the state.
- He reported that preliminary feedback from the federal Title I application has been good.
- The Board of Supervisors passed a CDI Initiative to enlist leaders in the African-American and Latino communities to promote awareness of HIV and AIDS issues. He also reported on consortiums to be involved in the CDI.
- RFP's have proceeded to contract in the following areas: food services, peer support, legal services, translation/interpretation, and child care. In response to public comment, he noted that the current contract for food vouchers is not being recommended for renewal in one area.
- He then responded to Ms. Broadus' three inquiries: (1) about the model used for food eligibility, (2) whether eligibility requirements were more stringent than CARE Act requirements, and (3) the appeals process for the decisions made about the vendors. He indicated that the model for the food eligibility is not based on a geographic estimate of need and the cost-effectiveness of the proposals. Concerning the stringency of the requirements, he pointed out that the administrative agency has flexibility in applying CARE Act standards. He further related that the vendors had been notified of the appeals deadline.

Mr. Hauptert addressed the food voucher issue brought up by members of the public, emphasizing the need for the Priority and Planning Committee and other organizations to look at this issue further. He added that food vouchers were being distributed in each SPA through the respective SPA's Service Provider Networks' (SPNs) lead agencies; those vouchers, he said, would be available in January and February, 2004. Clients could contact the SPN in their area to find their local provider. He also announced that Project Angel Food would be receiving the food vouchers from the SPNs. Ms. Kaplan emphasized the need to tap other federal funding sources for food, such as food stamps. Mr. Vrooman, Being Alive, also spoke on how suspending the Landerman Act would impact people with HIV.

X. **STATE OFFICE OF AIDS (OA) REPORT:** Via conference call, Ms. Pierce-Hedge reported the following:

- A 5% cut in Medi-Cal funds would be effective January 1, 2004.
- A budget hearing of the State Senate Subcommittee 3 on potential cuts proposed by the Governor for the Department of Health & Human Services indicated a \$455 million reduction in 2003-04, and a \$1.238 billion reduction for 2004-05.
- In preparation for a potential cap on ADAP enrollment, waiting lists would be established for the program effective January 1, 2004.
- The ADAP program would have a \$30 million shortfall in 2004-05.
- Since funding for the OA Insurance Program is flat from HRSA, the State Office of AIDS is figuring out alternative cost containment strategies.
- The Governor's newly appointed Secretary, Health and Human Services is Kimberly Belshe. The new Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) is Tom McCaffery.

Discussion continued on the impact of potential cuts to Health and Human Services, a bill on names reporting for California, and ADAP wait lists in other states.

XI. **PREVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE (PPC) REPORT:** Ms. Ortega reported on HIV Intervention and HOPWA presentations made at the PPC, and leadership committee awards and awards presentations for PPC members. Ms. Watt then highlighted presentations on counseling and testing, a study on crystal meth use among MSM, and a HALSA pilot offering legal assistance for undocumented citizens. Ms. Schwartz added that the HALSA project provided important legal information and services for those newly diagnosed as HIV positive.

XII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. **Joint Public Policy Committee:** Mr. Engeran reported that the Committee would look at the issue of equity and distribution of CARE Act funds. He also spoke on the City of Los Angeles' White Paper on HIV and AIDS, and the State of AIDS presentation to the Long Beach City Council.

1. **Proposed State Budget Cuts:** The Commission agreed to amend Motion #3, concerning opposing cuts in AIDS funding, to add that AIDS funding in the Los Angeles EMA is in a state of emergency, and to direct JPP to convene a summit on this issue. The Commission then approved the amended motion (**MOTION #3**).
- B. **Standards of Care Committee:**
  1. **Managed Care Task Force:** The Commission approved the motion to direct the Managed Care representative to form and lead a Managed Care Task Force (**MOTION #4**).
  2. **Outcomes Training – December 18, 2003:** The information was provided in the meeting packet.
- C. **Recruitment, Diversity and Bylaws Committee:** Mr. Butler announced and welcomed the following new Commissioners appointed by the Board of Supervisors on December 2, 2003: Jayne Adams, Mark Parra, and Wendy Schwartz.
  1. **Public Awareness:** After reviewing the public awareness campaign goals, he reported that the work group on public awareness is drafting an introductory brochure on the Commission. In addition, he reported on the formatting and design for the adopted public presentation guidelines. He also reported that \$75,000 dollars is allocated in the budget for public awareness.
  2. **Training:** There was no report.
  3. **Ordinance Sunset Review Process**
    - a. **Structure and Jurisdiction:** Mr. Butler reported on Committee discussions on restructuring issues and possible Commission bylaw changes, noting that a presentation on these issues would be made to the Commission in April 2004. Mr. Butler also indicated that delaying the sunset review process was not under consideration. He invited other Commissioners to participate in these discussions.
- D. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Ma reported that the Committee is providing financial data for the priority- and allocation-setting process. Mr. Engeran asked the Committee to provide information at the next Commission meeting on how the re-allocations for viral load testing are impacting Title I and Title II funds.
- E. **Priorities and Planning Committee**
  1. **Priority and Allocation-Setting Process:** Mr. Hauptert presented the proposed priority- and allocation-setting process. The Commission the approved the priority- and allocation-setting process (**MOTION #5**).
  2. **Comprehensive Care Plan Revisions:** Mr. Hauptert reported that a variety of data sources would be used in the update to the CCP. He also reported on the revised Work Plan and the Scope of Work for the consultant, which focuses on the needs assessment and the questionnaire to be presented to the Institutional Review Board (IRB). This formal study will use research-quality data. He further reported on the longitudinal study aspects of ongoing data collection. Ms. Watt expressed concern that how provider staff attrition contributes to HIV-positive people leaving care.

XIII. **COMMISSIONER COMMENT:** Commissioners offered the following comments:

- Mr. Engeran announced that the Joint Public Policy Committee meeting on December 19, 2003 would be held at St. Anne's Maternity Home.
- Mr. Hauptert acknowledged the work of Ms. Schwartz on the City of Los Angeles' White Paper on HIV and AIDS in Los Angeles.
- Ms. Schwartz indicated the document could be viewed or downloaded at the Los Angeles Department of Disability website address, <http://www.lacity.org/dod/> and acknowledged Ms. Broadus' contributions to the effort as well. Interested parties could also call the City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator's Office at (213) 485-6320 to obtain a copy of the document. She reported that City of Los Angeles' prevention RFPs had been released.

XIV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:

- Mr. Eastman announced that on November 25, 2003, U.S. District Court Judge Howard Matz sentenced Scott Imler to one year's probation for medical marijuana use. He also announced the next Medical Marijuana Task Force meeting on March 13, 2004. He also requested that the Commission adjourn in memory of his friend Steven S., who was a pharmacist who died of AIDS. Mr. Eastman noted the irony of his death: even though Steven S. was a pharmacist, he was not adherent to his treatment—acknowledging that even the most knowledgeable people still face hurdles with their HIV disease.
- Mr. Perry announced that Dr. Kathleen Clanon, M.D., would conduct the Outcomes Training the following Thursday, December 18, 2003.
- Mr. Land thanked and acknowledged Ms. Reynolds, from the Fifth District, for her participation at the Commission.
- Ms. Watt announced the next Prevention and Planning Committee (PPC) meeting was rescheduled to January 6, 2004 due to the holiday.
- Mr. Vrooman announced that copies of LACSHAC's Five Year Plan could be obtained by calling (213) 808-8805.

**COMMISSION ON HIV HEALTH SERVICES**

Minutes from December 11, 2003 Meeting

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XV. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m., in memory of Steven S.

<b>MOTION AND VOTING SUMMARY</b>		
<b>MOTION #1:</b> Approve the Agenda.	<i>Passed by Consensus</i>	<b>Motion Passes</b>
<b>MOTION #2:</b> Approve the minutes of the October 9, 2003 Commission meeting with the following alterations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the attendance page, add Dean Page to the members present column.</li> <li>• Ms. Broadus announced a Second District Coalition <del>Third Annual</del> <i>Seventh Anniversary</i> celebration in which Supervisor Yvonne Burke would participate.</li> </ul>	<i>Passed by Consensus</i>	<b>Motion Passes</b>
<b>MOTION #2:</b> Adopt the Annual Meeting summary report, with a roster of those who attended, as the official record of the meeting.	<i>Passed by Consensus</i>	<b>Motion Passes</b>
<b>MOTION #3, Amendment (<i>italics</i>):</b> Oppose cuts to AIDS funding in Los Angeles County, <i>declare an emergency in AIDS funding and access in the Los Angeles EMA, and direct Joint Public Policy Committee to convene a summit to discuss issues and make a plan to share with the Board of Supervisors.</i>	<i>Passed by Consensus</i>	<b>Motion Passes</b>
<b>MOTION #3:</b> Oppose cuts to AIDS funding in Los Angeles County, declare an emergency in AIDS funding and access in the Los Angeles EMA, and direct Joint Public Policy Committee to convene a summit to discuss issues and make a plan to share with the Board of Supervisors.	<i>Passed by Consensus</i>	<b>Motion Passes</b>
<b>MOTION #4:</b> Direct the Managed Care representative to form and lead a Managed Care Task Force, with regular reporting to the Standards of Care Committee.	<i>Passed by Consensus</i>	<b>Motion Passes</b>
<b>MOTION #5:</b> Approve the proposed priority- and allocation-setting process, plan, timeline and scope, as presented.	<i>Passed by Consensus</i>	<b>Motion Passes</b>